

DEADLY UNNA?

By Phillip Gwynne

Chapter summaries

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Gary Black and Dumby Red play for the same football team, but they come from different worlds. Blacky (Gary Black) lives in town with his seven brothers and sisters, his long-suffering mother and his alcoholic father. Dumby lives on the point, in the Aboriginal settlement.

At first, Blacky thinks he hasn't much in common with Dumby, but when Dumby saves his skin by defending him, Gary realises Dumby is his friend. Unfortunately, it might be okay for a Nunga (Aboriginal boy) and a Goonya (white boy) to play for the same football team, but it isn't so easy for them to be friends.

Through his friendship with Dumby, Blacky starts to see his town through different eyes. He starts to question some of the things, that he had previously, accepted – racist jokes, rude graffiti, and the separation of black and white.

WINTER

Chapter 1.

Gary Black (Blacky) plays 2nd ruck in the local football. They have made the Grand Final and will play Wangaroo for the Peninsula Junior Colts Premiership Cup.

Their team is half white (Goonyas) and half aboriginal (Nungas).

Mr Robertson is the coach. He owns the local store. Blacky calls him "Arks" because he mispronounces "Asks".

Mark "Arks" is the captain.

Carol Cockatoo is 1st ruck and very good at football.

Just before the Grand Final it is discovered the Carol is really Colin the older brother and is therefore not eligible to play.

This leaves Blacky to play 1st ruck a very responsible position, which he knows he can't do well.

Chapter 2.

We learn that Blacky likes school and especially maths as some of it is useful.

"Momentum = Mass x Velocity." (p8)

Wangaroo is a one-man team because it has a very large player Blacky calls him Thumper. Because of his maths he knows that being small "if I tackles Thumper I'm gonna get clobbered. If I don't I'll end up with 'Gutless wonder' superglued to my forehead." (p10)

Chapter 3.

"Arks" was once a champion footballer and came to the town to coach the football team. When the wheat market failed the team could no longer afford to pay a coach so

“Arks” bought the deli and still coached the team on a voluntary basis. His wife left him and the children and went back to Adelaide.

Chapter 4.

“Arks” picks up Blacky after school to go to the oval for some rucking training. Blacky learns of all the chances “Arks” has had but that he has never won a Grand Final. By the end of the chapter Blacky knows that the game depends on him and feels sorry for “Arks”. He tells him that they will win this one.

Chapter 5.

Blacky and Dumby Red meet. At first he is jealous of him. ‘This Dumby Red was trendy, he was talented, he was up himself (conceited) he wore Jezza’s number 25 (a famous football star) and he had that smile.’(p10)
After Dumby saves him in a fight with Mad Dog they become friends.

Chapter 6.

We learn more about Blacky’s family.

- Mum- knows a lot about football, speaks well.
- Dad- fisherman, spends a lot of time at the pub, doesn’t speak well.
- Eight children- Best Team –man (Timothy) – 15

Gary (Blacky)	14
Sharon (Shaz)	13
Jenny	12
Kevin	10
Chris	8
Claire	7
Greg	6

- Not well off family, dishes and cutlery did not match.
- Three bedrooms one for the boys and one for the girls .

When they first moved to the area they lived in a caravan and then bought the house and had it moved to where they live now. It was cut in half for the move on the truck and the scar where it was rejoined is visible.

Chapter 7.

Best Team Man very good at training but not good in a game. Always won the trophy because of his training efforts and his dedication to the team.

We learn of the cray fishing trip when they were younger and took the boat out to the reef when they were not supposed too. Best Team Man said it was Blacky’s idea.

Chapter 8.

Darcy – old retired man next door. Breeds maggots to sell as bait to the campers. He calls them Gents. Blacky helps him bottle them to take his mind off Thumper and the upcoming game.

Blacky worried about all the responsibility being his as the game is won or lost in the ruck.

Chapter 9.

Blacky has buck teeth and needs braces but family can not afford the orthodontist.

Chapter 10.

Pickles is not very good at football. He is in the team because his parents are heavy smokers and buy their cigarettes from "Arks"

Pickles has hygiene problems, wants to be a fisherman like his father.

His father and Blacky's father were partners.

Chapter 11.

Meryl – The name of Blacky's father's fishing boat

Old and slow like Darcy but a heap of character.

Mick (Pickles' dad) had the 'know how' (knowledge) about the sea but

Blacky's dad owned the boat.

We learn about the fishing trip where Tim and Gary went out because Mick was not able to go.

Father always angry when Gary was with them but took him because he seemed lucky. Always a good catch when he went.

Bad storm Gary thought they were going to die.

His father called him a 'Gutless wonder' because he was scared.

Not allowed on the boat again.

Chapter 12.

Gary walked along the beach after leaving Pickles at the anchor. He found his mum in the laundry. Helped hang out the clothes. Mum likes reading Mills and Boon books (romantic short stories). Gary wonders why his mum married his dad. Remembers a photo of his dad when he was younger on a motor bike dressed in leathers. He thinks that girls might have thought it looked cool.

Chapter 13.

Night before the big game Blacky is having trouble sleeping, went to see his mum but she is in the bath, "Her peace time" dad not home. Made himself some milo looked at his favourite pages in "Great Finals in Football History" then went to sleep.

Chapter 14.

Gary's feelings on the morning of the grand final.

-butterflies

-Mum cooked a special breakfast but he was unable to eat it

-Banner, streamers

- final to be played in Wangaroo

- Gary had a kick with Tim, kicked a goal then stopped practising in case his luck ran out. Working on his theory of probability.

- Shirl and Mick (Pickles' parents) parked next to their car, Blacky's mother was not pleased. They set up chairs and an esky and had a beer.
- Gary met Dumby's family realised he had watched his sister Clarence play netball.
- Pep talk before the game
- Wangaroo scoring by ¼ time well in front.
- Jenny gave Gary a message from his mum to run in from the side and jump late. By ¾ time score was level
- Dumby took the mark of a lifetime then passed the ball to Clemboy instead of kicking a certain goal.
- Clemboy kicked a point.
- Now up to Gary to stop Thumper. Decided to step sideways rather than tackle, Thumper also stepped sideways and collided with Gary. Thumper then kicked a goal, which wasn't allowed because they were out of time. Gary was unconscious but a hero. Ark's team won.

Chapter 15.

Celebration after the win. Gary shouldn't have gone but talked his mother into letting him go.

- Asked Dumby why he passed the ball to Clemboy.
- Not many Nungas at the party. Dumby's mum not there. "Not keen on being around you lot." (p118)
- Gary talked to Clarence and agreed to meet for a smoke at the jetty even though he didn't smoke.

Chapter 16.

Gary went with Clarence for a smoke but saw graffiti in the shed and felt embarrassed by it. "Boongs Piss Off". The graffiti had been there for ages, usually it disappeared quickly. Blacky wasn't sure why.

Darcy was fishing at the end of the jetty and warned him to be careful of "gins" (aboriginal women)

Gary unsure what he meant.

Learned Clarence liked Beatles' music.

Chapter 17.

Speeches and awards Gary won Best Team Man instead of Tim
Mark Arks won Best on Ground. Blacky knew Dumby should have won it.
He became really angry and left the party. Blacky resolved not to play football again.
He kicked his trophy into the sand.

SUMMER

Chapter 18.

Cathy and her family came to stay in the Port. Gary and Pickles met them.
Pickles starts selling "gents".

Chapter 19.

Gary “smitten” by Cathy

Chapter 20.

Cathy’s family are staying with the McDermott family, a rich family from the city. Gary, Dazza, and Pickles liked to hang out with their sons even though they knew they were “phonies”.(pretending to be something which you are not)

Chapter 21.

Gary and Pickles talking. Pickles knows Gary is smitten with Cathy.

Chapter 22.

Pickles and Gary go to the pub. Gary’s father is there with Shirl and Mick. Since the grand final his attitude has changed towards Blacky. Gary’s mother doesn’t go to the pub except may be New Year’s Eve but not in the front bar.

Pickles and Gary play eight ball with others. Tommy Red comes into the front bar and is welcomed, tells a joke everyone laughs.

Noise in the back bar where the Aboriginals drink and Tommy goes in to sort it out. Mac the publican tells a racist joke Gary doesn’t laugh even though he has heard the joke before and laughed at it. Somehow this time was different.

Chapter 23.

Gary hurried to the jetty and arrived to find all the kids there.

Small children learning to swim, Blacky remembered how much simpler life was at that age.

People fishing, Darcy’s gents considered to be better quality than Pickles.

As much as he wanted to he wasn’t game to lie nest to Cathy on the sand. He spent the day lying on the sand watching Cathy.

Chapter 24.

Gary talks to Darcy at the jetty. He told Darcy that Pickles was selling gents that he had gather from a dead kangaroo. Darcy was married a long time ago. He tells Blacky that if you like a girl you have to tell her.

Chapter 25.

Gary carefully selected the clothes he would wear, went to meet the others with the intention of letting Cathy know how he felt but lost his nerve and went home.

Chapter 26.

Gary stayed away from the jetty and went snorkelling with his younger brothers and sisters. He decided it was lucky not to have told Cathy how he felt as he would have been stuck with her all summer. After all she too was phony.

Gary met Pickles at the jetty to go squiddin', he noticed that the graffiti was still there. Cathy crept up behind him while he was checking the line.

She stayed and talked, Pickles was not happy about girls and fishing. He landed a squid and Gary stepped in front of Cathy to stop her getting squid's ink on her white jumper.

Chapter 27.

Gary was smitten again.

Chapter 28.

Next day at the jetty Cathy asked Gary to put his towel down next to hers.

He knew the meaning of the word 'transmogrify' when one of the Macca boys asked Cathy and she didn't know. Cathy said he was quite brainy for a country kid and could go to college. He then found out that going to college was a matter of money not brains.

Cathy asked Gary to put sunscreen on her back.

Deana announced that a mob of Nungas was heading for the jetty. Cathy asked if they were allowed on the jetty, Pickles said that they shouldn't be as it was their jetty.

Clarence was with them, comment was passed about the fact that they were swimming in shorts and T-shirt not bathers. Pickles teased Gary by saying his girlfriend was one of them. Gary denied knowing them. Somehow his morning was not as good as it had been.

Chapter 29.

Gary was woken by Team Man with the news of a shooting at the pub.

They ran to join the crowd. Three people had been shot two of them were dead.

'Boongs' trying to rob the place was all anyone knew. Then Gary saw the shoe of the body on the stretcher being brought out of the pub. It was Dumby. Dumby was dead shot by Big Mac.

He ran to the anchor and vomited.

Chapter 30.

The shooting was the only topic of conversation the next day.

Big Mac had been woken at 2:35 by the intruders, he had shot them, then called the police. A car was heard driving away.

Chapter 31.

Gary recalls looking after Greggy one day. Greggy coloured a picture of a beach scene all in grey pencil. Gary says that is how he feels, all grey.

Chapter 32.

Days later Gary still no better. His mother wants him to see the doctor but he refuses. Headline in the paper about the shooting. No charges to be laid.

Gary then found the funeral notice for Dumby, it is to be at the point. He tears the piece out and puts it in his pocket.

He tells his mum that he wants to go to the funeral but she says no, that it is not their business. He can send flowers if he wants to.

Gary asks Mr Robertson if the footy club is doing anything for the funeral. He is told that footy is one thing this is something else shouldn't mix the two.

Gary leaves angrily. Doesn't "Arks" know their will be no team next year?

Dazza and Pickles are not interested either. The general feeling is that Dumby got what he deserved.

Darcy also tells Gary not to go to the funeral.

Gary decides that he is going anyway. He meets Cathy on the way home. Cathy reminds him of the Barbie the next day he is supposed to be attending. He tells her that he will see her tomorrow. But he didn't.

Chapter 33.

Gary arrived home to find that his father wanted to see him. He had forgotten to mow the lawn in the past few days. His dad also told him that he and Tim had to go out on the boat the next day as his new partner couldn't go.

In the house the kids were watching "The Brady Bunch" there was the usual problem being sorted out, Gary sat down to watch. The advice given in the show was "do what your heart tells you". Gary left the house and went down to Bum Rock to think.

Shaz offered to shout Gary an ice cream but he declined the offer, went to his room and packed his good clothes into a sports bag.

Chapter 34.

Gary rose early and left to walk to the point for the funeral.

He wondered if he would be welcome. He thought of Sunday school and whether Dumby would go to Heaven. He changed before reaching the fence that surrounded the settlement.

As Gary walked towards the town he thought of the comments he had heard about it in the front bar. He soon realised they were wrong. The town was untidy and dirty but the houses all had doors and windows.

Gary asked some Aboriginal kids for directions to the funeral and kept walking thinking that if it was too far then he would miss it and have come all this way for nothing. He heard a car behind him. Clarence was in the car. When asked what he was doing there, he said that he was going to the funeral. They gave him a ride.

He had not expected the coffin to be open and was not going to look in as he filed past to pay his respects, but he did open his eyes and was overcome with a feeling of peace.

Gary went to the waters edge, Clarence joined him. He went back with Dumby's parents and Clarence for a cup of tea and a scone before being driven home by Dumby's uncle Sid.

When he dropped Gary at his house he said how much all the mob had appreciated his going to the funeral. Gary's dad was not home. He told his mum that he had been to the funeral. She said that she hoped no one had taken exception and he told her that they hadn't.

Chapter 35.

It was dark when Team man came into their room, he had been crying and his lip was bleeding. Their dad had been drinking while looking for the ledge where they had last caught a lot of fish, when Tim asked if they shouldn't go home his father had thrown him out of the wheel house and started ranting that it was all Gary's fault. They heard a crash from the kitchen and knew that he had arrived home.

Chapter 36.

Gary woke to find Greggory playing with his toy truck on the floor. He told Gary that his father was mad with him. Gary remembered how at the same age he had also that his father was the greatest, but not any longer. He decided to stay out of the way all day.

In the kitchen his mum told him that she had to go to Adelaide as her father was ill. Gary was about to have breakfast when he heard his father return. He ran out the other way and went to Pickles' house as his father didn't go there anymore. Pickles was going out but said Gary could stay in his room if he wanted.

After a while the smell drove Gary out and he went to the library.

When the library closed he walked down to the jetty, past the pub where he saw his father's car parked, he looked settled for a day's drinking so Gary was safe for a while.

Darcy was alone at the jetty. They sat and talked. The 'BOONGS PISS OFF' graffiti was still there. Gary asked Darcy about it.

Gary thought "they should do something about it" and Darcy agreed that "They should."

Shaz was in the kitchen when Gary came home. Their mum had to stay overnight in Adelaide. Shaz sent Gary to the butchers to buy meat for tea.

Gary noticed the shape of the 's' in a SPECIAL THICK SAUSAGES sign as being the same as the 's' in the graffiti. Slog the butcher must have written the graffiti.

Gary was unsure what to do. On the way home he saw Darcy. He remembered what Darcy had said and decided that "they" might be too busy to remove the graffiti but he wasn't.

Chapter 37.

Dinner went well. The kids all behaved themselves, ate dinner, did the dishes, watch TV and went to bed.

Chapter 38.

Gary dreamt about Slogsy running around town writing 'BOONGS PISS OFF' everywhere with Gary and Dumbly following him trying to remove the signs. He woke and saw his father's car outside. He checked for the keys but they were not on the hook or the table they were in his father's pocket.

Chapter 39.

Gary crept into his parent's room and took the keys from the overalls pocket and crept back out.

Chapter 40.

Out to the shed to get the black paint and a brush. He turned to leave when his father appeared in the shed doorway. When Gary told him what he wanted to do his father yelled at him, this woke the other kids and they came out. They were told to go back to bed but didn't. His father hit Gary and at that time they saw the car moving slowly down the driveway with Tim behind the wheel. The car was headed for the cliff with their father chasing it. It just missed a post but their father didn't. He was knocked out. Darcy had heard the noise and came out. The kids said that someone had been trying to steal the car and their father had chased them and got hit. They carried their father back to the house while Darcy drove the car back.

When Gary said that he had to go to the jetty to do something all the kids went with him.

Chapter 41.

They walked to the jetty where the younger ones asked all sorts of questions about the sign before it was decided that they would each paint over a letter.

The sign gone they didn't want to go home so they went to Bum rock for the night. Gary knew that there would be trouble in the morning but to night he was happy.